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THE ORGANIZED FARMER

August, 1957

Summer Board Meeting

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Board Marketing

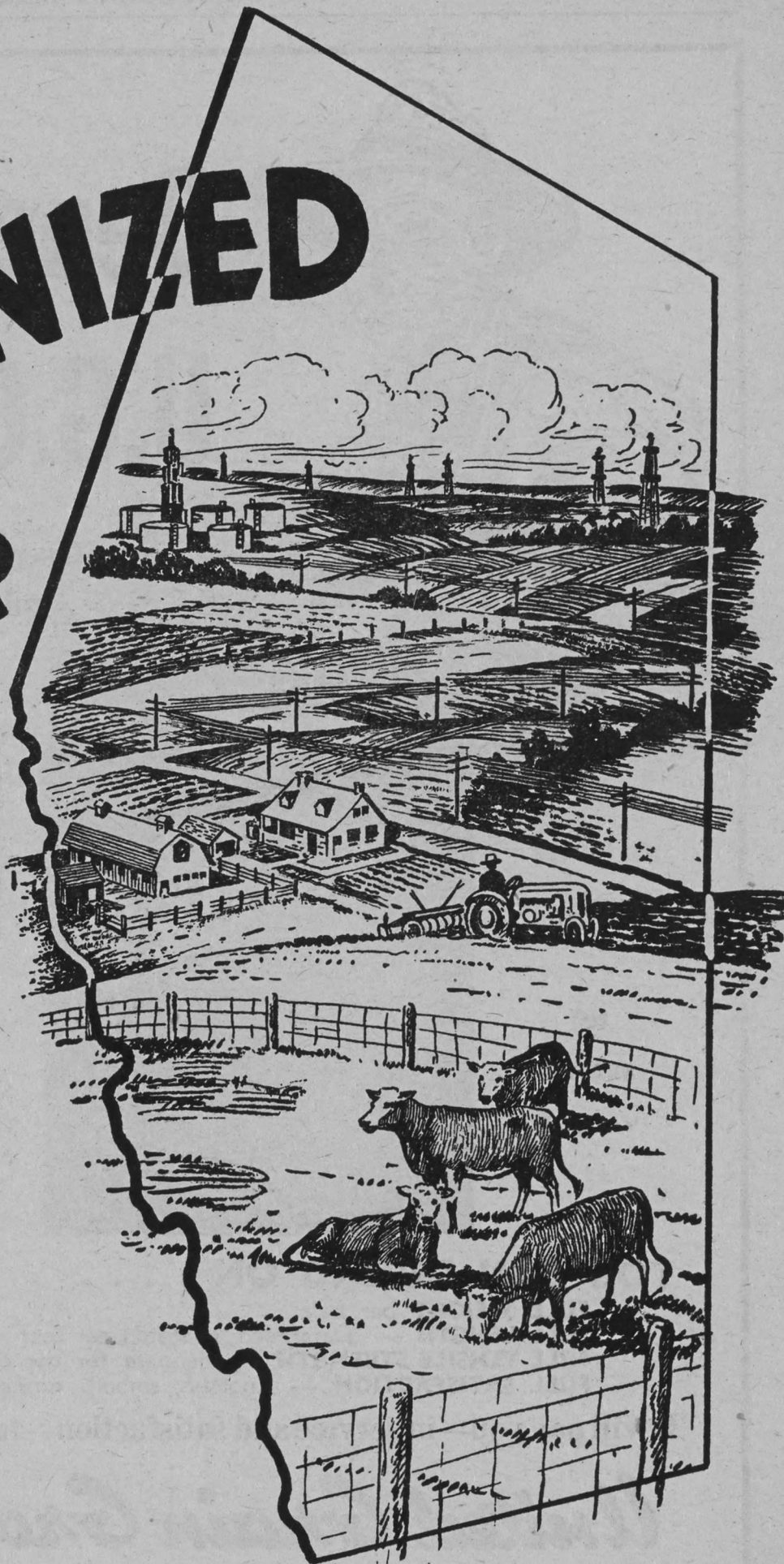
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Farmers' Union of Alberta

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President's Report

The joint meeting of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council was held in Winnipeg in July. At this meeting the problem of the grain grower received special consideration. Recommendations were made that the government be approached to establish a system of deficiency payments on grain that would enable the grain farmer to at least remain in business. Following the joint board meeting the Interprovincial Farm Union Council met. At this meeting plans were made to prepare a brief and submit it to the Dominion Government as soon as possible. Since that time the date of August 15th has been arranged for the presentation of this brief. Plans were also made to have representatives in Ottawa before and during the fall session of parliament to help keep before Parliament the farm viewpoint.

The summer board meeting of the F.U.A. and executive meeting were held immediately after the Winnipeg meetings. Highlights of

these meetings are reported on in another part of this issue.

The western conference, including representatives of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, met in Winnipeg to discuss emergency measures to deal with the grain situation. A deficiency payment plan similar to that proposed by the I.F.U.C. was adopted and forwarded to the semi-annual meeting of the C.F.A.

This latter meeting was held in Port Arthur and proved to be an extremely important one. Important changes and additions to the policy on marketing and price supports were adopted. A brief summary of this policy appears in another part of this issue. A second important matter was the report of the committee on organization and program methods. This was a lengthy report making many suggestions as to how the C.F.A. might be improved. It is hoped to deal with many of these recommendations in future issues of the Organized Farmer. Many other interesting and important items dealing with international trade, surplus disposal, dairy products, etc., were dealt with.

Following this meeting I attended, as an observer, at an executive meeting of the C.F.A. in Ottawa where a brief was prepared and presented to the Federal Cabinet. The delegation

to the Cabinet consisted of representatives of every province in Canada, plus special authorities on grain, dairy products, farm credit and others. They received a long and cordial hearing and it was requested that Mr. Hannam prepare and present additional material on a number of items that the Cabinet was especially interested in.

Some of the more important requests made in the brief were as follows.

In dealing with the grain situation the following four items were placed before the Cabinet.

1. A deficiency payment on 1955-56 Wheat Board deliveries to supplement income of grain producers.

2. Extraordinary measures to market the Canadian grain surplus.

3. Immediate steps to support prices for Ontario winter wheat which are now at an abnormally low level.

4. An order in council to put the Prairie Farm Producer's Interim Finance Act into effect at lower interest rates than in previous years.

The representations in regard to the dairy industry can be summarized as follows:

1. That an interim support price on butter be established immediately at 62 cents a pound, effective to April 30th, 1958, with future supports to be determined in February 1958.

2. That price support boards continue as sole importer of butter, imports are required in the interests of stable, orderly marketing program in Canada.

3. Skim milk powder should be placed on the import permits list.

4. Support board winter selling prices for butter should provide for the addition of storage costs to buying prices.

A fairly lengthy submission was made on surplus disposal. It was recommended that the Canadian government take a leading part in bringing before F.A.O. the principles of surplus disposal that had been laid down by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. Details as to how this might be worked out were also submitted.

Again, a considerable part of the brief was devoted to farm credit and a number of matters were discussed under this heading. A special loan program to enable young men to get started in farming was outlined as well as suggested changes in the Canadian Farm Loan Board and in the Farm Improvement Loan Act were also requested. A plan to set up a disaster loan scheme was also submitted in this brief.

Recommendations on land use, soil and water conservation, on freight-rate assistance,

Dist. 14 F.W.U.A. Summer Conference

District 14 F.W.U.A. summer conference was held in Lethbridge on May 8th. It started at noon with a luncheon — about 30 ladies being present. Mrs. Mary L. Roberts, district director got the meeting under way by welcoming members who were present from the various locals. Miss Molly Coupland gave a report on last year's conference. An interesting talk and demonstration on formal and informal table settings was given by Miss Elizabeth Bartman. Two solos, with musical accompaniment, gave an interesting report on her ment, were enjoyed.

Mrs. House, director of district 12, of Artrip to Ottawa with other delegates from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where they met with members of parliament on matters of importance to western farmers in regard to parity prices, etc.

The highlight of the conference was a talk by Mr. Niel Purvis, supervisor of schools at Taber. He spoke on the problems of teenagers, a most interesting talk which left the delegates with a great deal to think about.

Mrs. Jacobson gave a report on a 30th anniversary meeting of the Warner local, it being the oldest in the district.

Two dances by Donna Mae Jacobson helped entertain the gathering.

A panel discussion on "How to keep the young folks on the farm" was the final item on the program.

on tariffs and trade and a special request for an investigation into the price spread between the prices the consumer pays and the farmer received were also included in this brief along with many other matters of lesser importance.

Following the presentation to the Cabinet I had an opportunity to interview various government officials on matters of special interest to Alberta, and to see something of the agriculture of Ontario and Quebec.

A few days does not permit one to see or properly assess the agriculture of these vast provinces. However, one can readily see that the foundation of agriculture over most of this area is the dairy industry. Without dairying agriculture could not survive and the prosperity or otherwise of the farmers depends very largely on the price of milk, butter and cheese.

I am returning to Ottawa immediately for the presentation of the I.F.U.C. brief and for special representation on a number of things that have come to our attention recently. From now until Parliament opens in mid-October it appears that it will be necessary for me to be in Ottawa a good deal of the time.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER BOARD MEETING

Long hours were spent in the three day summer board meeting, and a great deal of business transacted. A few of the highlights are given below.

The organization and membership drive discussed at considerable length. It was agreed that the carrying out of this work, and the financing of it was primarily, a district responsibility. The responsibilities of Central Office were to co-ordinate the work as much as possible, handle provincial advertising and to assist districts in this work on request of the district director. The general plan for the fall membership drive will be much the same as last year.

Mrs. W. C. Taylor, chairman of the finance committee, submitted a very interesting report. This committee, which includes Mr. Henry Young and Mr. A. B. Wood, was set up to investigate costs of organization work and the difficulties of certain districts in financing their operations. Among their recommendations was one that an equalization fund be set up by all districts and central office, upon which districts with high costs and low membership potential could draw when necessary. The Board approved the report and sent it to the district boards for their approval.

The extension work of the organization was discussed. A plan was developed to have an extension officer at each district board who would be any member of the board but, preferably, the alternate director. These people would be given a special advance leadership course. When they return to the districts they would assist sub-district directors and local officials in carrying out their duties in a proper manner. They would also be, in effect, liaison officers between the extension department at central office and district and local officials.

Mrs. Taylor was asked to prepare and present a brief to the Provincial Government Board that is studying the advisability of having teachers salaries established on a provincial rather than a district basis. This brief will support the idea of dealing with the matter provincially and thus will support the stand of the Alberta Trustees Association. A resolution to this effect was passed at the last annual convention.

Reports were received from the car insurance committee; on the accounting service; farm — labor co-ordinating committee; Egg Marketing Board; Provincial Safety Conference; Alberta Livestock Co-operative meeting and several others.

Resolutions from district conventions deal-

ing with urgent matters were considered and appropriate action taken. Most of these had to do with immediate representations to the New Federal Government on F.U.A. policy.

Convention arrangements and many other matters were also dealt with before the meeting adjourned.

LACOMBE CELEBRATES

"Lacombe's Fifty Years" was the title of an address delivered by Dr. C. H. Goulden, director of the Canada Experimental Farms Service, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Lacombe Experimental Farm on July 31.

Noteworthy among changes in the past half century is the progress made in cereal production and research. In the early years, cereal crop work at Lacombe was chiefly a matter of testing introduced varieties for adaptability. This testing continues but the work has now been expanded to include breeding and selection.

One result of this was the release of Larain oats in the spring of 1946. Larain matures some two week earlier than Victory and although lower in yield it has superior lodging resistance and a plump, attractive kernel. It has proved a popular special purpose variety where very early maturity is essential. Another product of the Lacombe cereal breeding program is Wolfe barley, an early maturing, high yielding feed variety. Introduced in 1954, Wolfe has marked resistance to lodging and matures only four days later than Olli.

Directing this work at Lacombe are cerealist A. D. McFadden and Dr. Martin Kaufmann. Since the end of the war much greater emphasis has been placed on the cereal breeding program, they report. Good kernel characteristics, lodging resistance and early maturity are stressed in the oat program, loose smut and foliage diseases are receiving special consideration. In wheat breeding, Lacombe has been named the co-ordinating unit for the Northern Wheat Breeding Project, a project designed to produce early maturing and improved varieties for the northern regions.

A somewhat different approach to cereal improvement is mentioned by Mr. McFadden. A study of individual plant growth habits to segregate the most promising families for the selection has been initiated at Lacombe. Selection has been carried on under controlled greenhouse conditions and marked improvement in root development, tillering habit, speed of growth, yield and kernel size have been noted. This project offers interesting possibilities and the studies are continuing.

—Science & The Land

F.U.A. Directors Visit U.F.A. Warehouse

During their recent meeting in Edmonton, members of the Board of Directors of the Farmers' Union of Alberta had the opportunity of inspecting the new Farm Supply warehouse of U.F.A. Co-op. The warehouse is located just off the Fort Trail and south of the Healy Ford Motor plant. Of course the northern directors were particularly pleased with this newest addition to U.F.A. Co-op Farm Supply service because it is the members they represent who will benefit from it. Southern locals have been served by similar facilities in Calgary for the past five years.

The Edmonton warehouse is a Butler Steel building 100 feet by 70 feet on trackage with concrete loading and unloading docks. Adjoining is a concrete building 60 feet by 40 feet, which houses offices and display floor. A large fenced area around the building provides ample parking space and storage for lumber, posts, grain loaders, weed sprayers etc. The directors of the F.U.A. were pleasantly surprised at the wide range of goods in stock at the warehouse, from building supplies, plywood, tires, batteries

to refrigerators, freezers, radios and other electrical appliances. They were agreed that here was a one stop farm supply service for farmers from Red Deer area north to the Peace River country, as well as mail order service to northern farm locals. The mailing address is Box 1056, Edmonton.

Following the tour of inspection the F.U.A. Board were the guests of the Board of U.F.A. Co-op at a dinner in the Corona Hotel. Mr. George MacLachlan, U.F.A. Co-op director



Back Row: M. Ward, C. Anderson, E. Iddins, W. Hansel, G. Loree, H. Manquardt, L. Hilton, G. Sayle, F. Wuth, W. McCartney, D. Whitney, J. Schindler, J. Frey. Middle Row: S. Sanford, A. Anderson, A. B. Wood, H. Young, G. O'Brien, G. MacLachlan, D. Lien, A. J. Cameron, O. Hittinger, R. Wood, U. Powell, E. Nelson. Front Row: Mrs. Olive Douglass, Mrs. Grace Lehman, Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Mrs. Mildred G. Redman, Mr. W. Hoppins, George Church, A. W. Platt, Miss E. Birch, Mrs. A. W. Platt, Mrs. H. Young, Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite.



The New Warehouse of the U.F.A. Co-op in Edmonton

from Clyde, and an early member of the Society of Equity, gave a brief but very interesting and informative outline of the development of the organized farm movement in Alberta. He pointed out that one of the essentials for a successful farmer organization has proved to be the provision of vital and interesting material for discussion in the locals. Of prime importance also is the steady flow of young people into the organization.

Mr. George Church,

president of U.F.A. Co-op, commenting on the the very pleasant and co-operative relationship which has existed between the F.U.A. and U.F.A. Co-op, also noted that there were a considerable number of the present F.U.A. directors who had served with him as directors of the United Farmers of Alberta before amalgamation.

In reply Mr Arnold Platt, president of the F.U.A., expressed his gratification at the harmonious relationship between Farmers' Union locals and U.F.A. Co-op. He felt that the Farm Supply service of U.F.A. Co-op provided a wonderful means for farmers to save money on farm supplies, as well as being a way for locals to obtain funds for their operations. In addition, locals with this farm supply arrangement with U.F.A. Co-op had further material for interesting discussions at their meetings. Mr. Platt said he felt sure that with the excellent service facilities available in Farm Supplies from U. F. A. Co-op increasing numbers of farmers would be taking advantage of the substantial savings possible by buying their supplies through their Farmers' Union locals.

Brief Summary of the New Price Support Policy of the C.F.A.

1. Price support should not create incentives to production which perpetuate surplus production problems and prevent necessary and desirable production adjustments being made.

2. Support prices should be established according to known formula.

3. A modernized formula for the calculation of Fair Relationship prices, which may be accepted as the best presently known, and which is, therefore, recommended as a guide to the setting of price supports, requires:

- (a) Calculating prices for farm products which would give them the same purchasing power per unit as in the base period 1925-29, and then —
- (b) Adjusting these individual prices so that they will have the same relationship to each other as they have had on the average during the most recent ten years.

These two steps should provide a set of Fair Relationship prices in sound relationship to one another, but with a unit purchasing power on the average equal to the purchasing power of farm products in 1925-29.

4. It is recommended that a formula, for use in the setting of farm price support be embodied in price support legislation.

5. Support prices for the following commodities — wheat, oats, barley, cheese, butter, concentrated milk products, eggs, **poultry meats**, and bacon hogs, should be required by the price support legislation to be in effect at all times.

6. A range of from 70 to 80 percent of the Fair Relationship prices would, for the key commodities mentioned, appear to leave the price support program with the maximum of flexibility consistent with protection of the interests of the farmer.

7. All other farm commodities should be subject to price supports as conditions may make this desirable.

8. Market price supports and deficiency payments should be applied on a national basis as a general rule, but regional supports, under some circumstances, should not be ruled out.

9. Support prices to the producer must be known, and where support operations are carried on at a processing or wholesale level, producers must be assured the full benefit of such supports.

10. The deficiency payment method of supporting incomes of producers should be applied on individual products to correct income deficiencies:-

- (a) For perishable products requiring this type of support.
- (b) To supplement market price supports.
- (c) To correct income deficiencies after the product has been marketed where prices for a commodity have fallen to an unreasonably low level each year for 2 years; or to meet conditions such as inability to deliver production, or other special circumstances.
- (d) To be used as a guaranteed support level where the interests of consumers, continuity of supply of other special marketing problems require it.

NEW HIGH FOR CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index advanced between May and June from 1211 to 1216. The index is now 32 per cent higher than it was a year ago. Most of the recent increase was due to higher prices, which rose between May and June. Prices were higher for most meats, particularly pork and for fresh fruits, some fresh vegetables and milk. Declines were recorded for some canned and fresh vegetables and for coffee.

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

DEAR FRIENDS:

Last month we told that the A.L.C. annual meeting would be held on July 4th and 5th. It was held as advertised. It was one of the best meetings we've had, and many items pertinent to livestock production and marketing were discussed.

Charlie Hayes presented the directors' report and made note of the following:

A.L.C. handlings grossed better than Thirty Two Million Dollars for the year.

Breaking this down to a weekly basis the average was right at six hundred and thirty thousand dollars per week.

Livestock handled was as follows:

	Year Ending May 31, 1957	Average Per Week	Change from Previous Year
CATTLE AND CALVES	155,329	2,987	Increase 15.55 %
HOGS	367,544	7,068	Decrease 21.37 %
SHEEP AND LAMBS	17,182	330	Increase 2.32 %

Among other things the directors' report stated as follows:

"Imports and exports of slaughter livestock and meats to and from the United States present a varying picture. During 1956 Canadians ate more beef than they produced and supplies were augmented by imports of beef and cattle from the United States during the early part of the year. There were limited exports during the latter part of the year.

"Conversely, hogs, principally as pork products, were exported in a volume equal to approximately 10,000 hogs per week throughout the year, in spite of a comparatively higher Canadian hog market.

"The Canadian embargo against live hogs and fresh pork from the United States is being maintained inasmuch as vesicular exanthema in some parts of the U.S. has not been fully eliminated. In other words, that cattle and beef trade is on a two way street, hogs and pork largely one way."

We'll try to give you a more complete rundown concerning some of the matters discussed in your next issue.

In the meantime if any of you who act as chairmen or secretaries of your F.U.A. locals would like something to discuss during your monthly meetings we'd be pleased to send you the reports that were presented at the A.L.C. annual meeting and if you require it might even include some of the resolutions and what was done with them. Just write to our Edmonton or Calgary offices, whichever is the nearest.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. WINKELAAR, general manager.

Know Your Directors

Dallas Minion, FUA director District 14, was born in the State of Washington and raised at Magrath, moving to Warner district in 1945.



DALLAS MINION

He has been active in the Union since 1923, being director since 1955.

His other activities include being a director of the Southern Alberta Co-op, a delegate of the C.C.I.L., a delegate for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool and president of the Sunshine Baseball League.

He and his wife operate a mixed and dairy farm, raising Hereford cattle, and Yorkshire hogs. They have four children, a son farming at home and three married daughters all living on farms in southern Alberta.

* * *

Mrs. Mary L. Roberts, FWUA director for District 14 was born in Chicago and at an early age moved to Ontario. She was educated in Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Her activities in the Union date back to 1928, having been director since 1955.

Mrs. Roberts was secretary-treasurer of the Pershing School District from 1917 to 1941, when the consolidated school was built, is president of the United Church W.A. and at one



MRS. MARY L. ROBERTS

time was active in the Home and School Association.

She and her husband, Wm. J. Roberts operate a grain farm at Owendale. They have one daughter, who is married and lives in Victoria, and two grandchildren.

New Seed Purchasing Regulations

After July 31, 1957, those buying forage or cereal seed direct from producers in Alberta will require a seed dealer's license and they must be bonded, states R. L. Pharis, supervisor of Crop Improvement Services, Alberta Department of Agriculture.

Regulations recently approved under the Seed Dealers' Act define license fees- types of licenses required by dealers and acceptable means of settlement with producers. Additionally one section deals with the purchase and sale of seed grown under contract. Special regulations apply to Alberta agents of seed concern located outside of the Province.

It is hoped that the regulations will give greater stability to the seed industry both from the producers' and dealers' viewpoint.

The regulations will apply to anyone who handles seed from producers on commission or on his own account. Employees of a licensed seed dealer need not be licensed but will require authorization card from their employer.

Seed dealers and agents who believe they will be affected by these regulations should contact the Field Crops Branch, Edmonton for further information.

—Farm Notes, July 26

The Organized Farmer

Editor A. W. PLATT

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No. 8

EDITORIALS

FREE TRADE

In briefs presented to the Canadian Government last winter, and again last month, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has presented strong arguments for, and won government support for, protection against foreign competition for the dairy, poultry meat and fruit and vegetable industries. Similar presentations have been made by the Interprovincial Farm Union Council. Farm organizations are united in their thinking that these segments of our agricultural industry at least must have protection if they are to survive.

What is happening in Canada in this regard has already happened in most other countries, until today agriculture in many countries has its domestic market protected more than has any other industry. It is not surprising that international trade in agricultural products is declining while world trade is increasing - it is surprising that it has stayed at the level it has.

Without question Canadian agriculture must follow the lead of the other nations in this matter. Canada cannot become a dumping ground for other people's surpluses if agriculture is to survive and the Nation prosper. Despite all this one cannot view this sort of thing with anything but regret. Surely there are better ways of solving these problems than by tariffs, quotas and embargoes. Surely the grain

Del McCorkle Joins FUA Staff



Del farmed in Berwyn district the past four years and took an active interest in FUA affairs. He comes to the office with the experience of a sub-district director from District 2. He is married and they have 2 children, Delmar and Pamela.

His farming experience also comes from the Picture Butte area in dry land and irrigation. The farm consisted mainly of livestock and grain.

He was born in Medicine Hat and received his three R's in the 'Hat and Lethbridge and attended School of Agriculture at Olds.

We hear from Del's friends that he is a popular sing-song leader and has a liking for sports.

Del's position is executive assistant.

producer who must export or die cannot help but look with a jaundiced eye on present procedure.

It is to be hoped that the International Federation of Agricultural Producers will redouble its efforts in this field. Because the difficulties in international trade of foodstuffs are so real, and so bedevilled with politics the solution will only be found by farmers themselves working at an international level.

BOARD MARKETING

An address by Ed. Nelson at the F.U.A. - Experimental Farm Field Day at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Lethbridge, August 2, 1957. Mr. Nelson's talk was part of a panel discussion on the survival of the family farm. Other contributions to this discussion will appear in subsequent issues.

In any discussion on board marketing, I think it is essential that we all understand what is involved. Also, we must all be talking about the same thing. Too often we find that, when people start talking about producer controlled marketing boards for livestock, etc., the issue usually becomes buried in a maze of controls, complications and suspicion. This is unfortunate, because there really isn't anything complicated about it and the principle is very simple. If we could agree that the principle is either right or wrong, the whole issue could be very much simplified.

From the very beginning, man has been interested in three basic needs. They are: provision of food, clothing, and shelter for himself and his family. Other problems were: danger, security, etc. Most of the other problems arose largely from man's efforts to provide these things for himself from the resources available to him. As the population increased, a change gradually took place. **I do not doubt that there was objection to any change then as there has been ever since.** I believe that is a very necessary part of any change. It helps to keep us on an even keel and stops any headlong rush into experiments that could be disastrous. But, **change did come about.** Because it was found certain members of society, living in certain localities, could produce certain necessities of life more easily than their neighbors, they began to specialize. This, in turn, created the need for trading and a simple form of barter trade became common. From that time to this man's needs have not changed but the ways and means used to satisfy those needs have changed. When direct barter became too cumbersome, money came into the picture. Since then money in some form or other has been used as a medium of trade.

Then, complications again. Society, having arranged itself into groups or countries was faced with trade between groups as well as individuals. Because some groups happened to have more abundant natural resources they began to forge ahead in production of goods and services. This in turn led to trade restrictions such as tariff walls, embargoes, currency regulation, etc. In other words, as production in the world increased it, in turn, necessitated more controls and direction.

While many mistakes have been made, it is generally agreed that these things have been done for the good of society, as we have come to know it. Down through the years, the man that was producing food for his neighbors was, generally speaking, fairly able to hold his own because he was always faced with an expanding need for food. So long as he had access to these needs he was able to bargain for his share.

Several things have come about to change this. Trade restrictions have limited his access to markets. In Canada, this, coupled with a high priced economy, **(or living standard created by abundant natural resources and restricted trade)**, and mechanization has created surplus food stuffs. Because of this he has lost his ability to bargain for his product.

In the early days, it was simple to turn the job of distributing farm produce over to someone else. The farmer, faced with the job of ever increasing his production, had neither the time nor the inclination to bother about it himself. Out of this grew the marketing system we have come to know and are so reluctant to let go of.

Let us see what it has done for us:- From the very beginning of trading we have had private traders. That is, people who undertake to distribute goods and services for a fee. Since the field was open to anyone, it was generally believed that these so-called free enterprises would have enough competition between themselves so that there would be no danger of them not being fair to their neighbors. This system of buying and selling was based on the assumption that our local traders would get a fair price for our produce, retain a fair share for their effort and pay the balance to the producer. It worked fairly well except for one thing. Our selling agents, or tradespeople found that, in order to carry on successfully they had to have a fixed charge for their work. This had two effects. First, **there was no need to establish a high price for the goods they handled.** It actually had the opposite effect. The cheaper they sold the more they could sell. The larger the volume the greater the profit.

Second The foregoing led to their consolidating their efforts. This should have been for the good of the producer but that was not always so. There still was no effort made to establish higher prices to the consumer and the saving in operation, because of volume, was pocketed by these tradespeople.

The producers finally had to find some way to change this if they were to remain solvent. That brought into being the producer

co-operatives in this country. The principle here was, of course, very simple. It was based on the principle of **distribution of goods and services at cost. Equal rights for all, special privileges for none.** It was assumed, of course, that the producers would use their co-operatives, if not entirely, at least in sufficient volume to be able to arrive at a more reasonable price ratio between producer and consumer.

History has shown what happened. The private trade, having become well established over the years, was reluctant to give up any or all of the job of distributing goods and services. While the co-operatives remained fairly small not much opposition developed. As a matter of fact they were even welcomed as having a stabilizing effect. But, when the co-operatives began to threaten volume, the trade was prepared to use its reserves to subsidize operations and, by so doing, won back some of the volume directed to the co-operatives. This balance has remained thru the years and, in spite of every effort by co-op minded people to gain support from all producers, sufficient volume has never been obtained to accomplish what was visualized and, by all standards, right. Because of this, the producer has remained in the position of having the product of his labor sold to the consumer by the private

trade and the co-operatives, in direct competition with each other. In times of scarcity he was able to realize a fair price. When supply and demand were equal, or when there was a surplus, the reverse was true. Having been more or less in a surplus position during the last number of years it is understandable that the farm producer has not fared well in comparison with the rest of society.

Another factor has also been injected here. Because surpluses (with the exception of wheat) are largely seasonal they have had an adverse effect on price, far beyond what was necessary. A very small surplus, or even a threat of a surplus, under the present system of marketing, depresses the price needlessly. Because the trade must operate at a profit, the tendency is to buy as low as possible, so that in the case of too much competition in the consumer trade, they can lower consumer prices without jeopardizing their own position.

The other factor is simply this. So long as **the trade is able to move the goods and maintain their margin, there is no incentive to move these goods into either interprovincial trade or export.** As a matter of fact, in the last number of years, it has only been thru the efforts of **our co-operatives going out to find markets for surpluses that have held hog prices above floor prices on several occasions.** With

Price Support on Fowl Terminating

On November 30th, 1957 the Price Support Program on Fowl will terminate.

It is therefore expected that there will be a drop in fowl prices after this date unless the Government continues the Support program on fowl.

For your protection, we therefore recommend that you take immediate advantage of these higher prices which now exist by the Prices Support Program and SHIP YOUR FOWL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE and well before the expiry date of November 30th, 1957.

ALBERTA POULTRY PRODUCERS LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Killing Plants at Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Wetaskiwin, and Willingdon

all this in mind, when we look to improvements in marketing, it is quite obvious that some changes will have to be made. The principle of board marketing was visualized by the people when they established co-operatives. Because of the weaknesses mentioned before, we have never been able to establish that principle. That is why thinking people today have turned to producer controlled marketing boards. These would give producers the right to license all handlers of livestock. That would mean simply - **those handlers or drovers could purchase livestock, or other farm produce, but could re-sell it only under the direction of the Board. They would deliver wherever the Board directed. The only people that could sell would be the producers themselves, thru their own controlled and operated Board.** It would eliminate all competition in the selling of livestock to processors. In exchange for this right, the board would be charged with the responsibility of selling all surplus products by export or otherwise. If large surpluses were to develop, the price would go down in direct proportion to the surplus at hand. **We would then have a true supply and demand picture instead of the artificial one we have had.** That would be the purpose of a marketing board along with a real effort to dispose of surplus.

As far as the technical part of selling is concerned, the **change in procedure to the producer would be very little if any.** For reasons of efficiency, and to reduce duplication of costly services, there would likely be some limitation on the number of dealers licensed. Other than that, the delivery by the producer would remain the same. The change would be that the processors would have only one source of supply, the **Producer-controlled Board.** Because of this it is felt that the producer will be in a position to bargain effectively for every unit of livestock he has to sell for slaughter purposes. Two things could work in his favor.

First:- The board, being charged with the job of selling every unit of livestock delivered to it, and not being concerned with profit on operations, could do a more effective job of selling; and by making use of present day know-how in storage and freezing of meat products, could quite conceivably reduce fluctuations in price to the producer due to seasonal surplus.

Second:- In spite of more effective marketing, there can be no assurance that the producer will at all times get returns sufficient to give him prices to compare with cost of production. It is, therefore, necessary, if we are going to keep the family farm in busi-

ness, to have some means of providing deficiency payments directly to the producer. The marketing board set-up would provide the machinery necessary to do that job. It is the only way that the job can be done on a production basis without it becoming too costly.

One thing that has been injected into marketing board discussion is "controlled production." This should never have been allowed to confuse the issue at all. Marketing boards are intended to do one job only. That is to sell to the best advantage, regardless of how much or how little is produced. Controlled production would be a separate operation. It would have to be an agreement among producers to curtail production in order to maintain a relatively high price per unit of production. There is no doubt in my mind that controlled production has merits and it is conceivable that some time in the future such a program might be desirable. In the meantime the two issues are entirely separate and should not become confused.

Another issue that is sometimes raised, is packing house or processors' profits. This also has nothing to do with marketing boards. The processors will, of course, be licensed by the board and as such will be under the scrutiny of the board. Undoubtedly, a close look would be taken at any undue profits. The point is, that boards will not be concerned in the operation of packing plants other than the possibility of embarking on a program of processing - either because the existing plants would not, or could not, buy properly or were not efficient in their operation, etc.

Also, in the meantime, certain forces are at work consolidating their efforts. Large chain store organizations, because of volume buying, are becoming more and more effective in lowering prices paid to processors. The producer, in the past has never been in too sound a position as an individual. Obviously, in light of changing conditions he can only be worse off. Certainly it would indicate that a change is necessary. This change is, and always should be, in the hands of the producers. If those producers will take time to study, and deliberate the issues realistically, I have no doubt they will come up with the right answer. Should the answer be producer-controlled marketing boards, then the producers will find that they are in the business of selling livestock and, as such, will have to accept responsibility. **They must then see that they retain control and they must be prepared to make the rules.** Should they relinquish this responsibility to someone else, as they did in the past, then that "someone else" will continue to make the rules and I could only say **Farm people had not measured up.**

Interim Report . . .

A.C.W.A. ENJOYS BEST YEAR OF OPERATIONS

At the A.C.W.A. executive meeting held in Edmonton on July 19, figures covering the eight-month period from November 1st to June 30th were reviewed.

Wholesale sales for this period averaged \$384,000 per month as compared to \$335,000 per month in 1956 and \$249,600 per month in 1953.

Sales of farm supplies, such as feeds, fertilizer, petroleum products, agricultural chemicals and hardware showed increases over the budget figures for this period.

Considerable interest is being taken in the Farm Supply Department set up in the Edmonton A.C.W.A. warehouse at 115th Avenue and 120th Street. This is designed to serve farmers and others with supplies that are not readily available at the smaller co-op stores.

Lumber from the Co-op Mill at Canoe, B.C. owned by Federated Co-ops, and building supplies for any type of building are now handled at the Edmonton A.C.W.A. warehouse.

Members of C.C.I.L. may obtain regular parts for their C.C.I.L. implements at the A.C.W.A.

Net earnings of the A.C.W.A. for the period under review were 50% greater than for the same period in 1956.

For every dollar of current liabilities owing by the A.C.W.A. there are two dollars of current assets.

A.C.W.A. progress during the past four years is highlighted by the following facts revealed by comparing the balance sheet of June 30, 1957 with the balance sheet of January 31st, 1953.

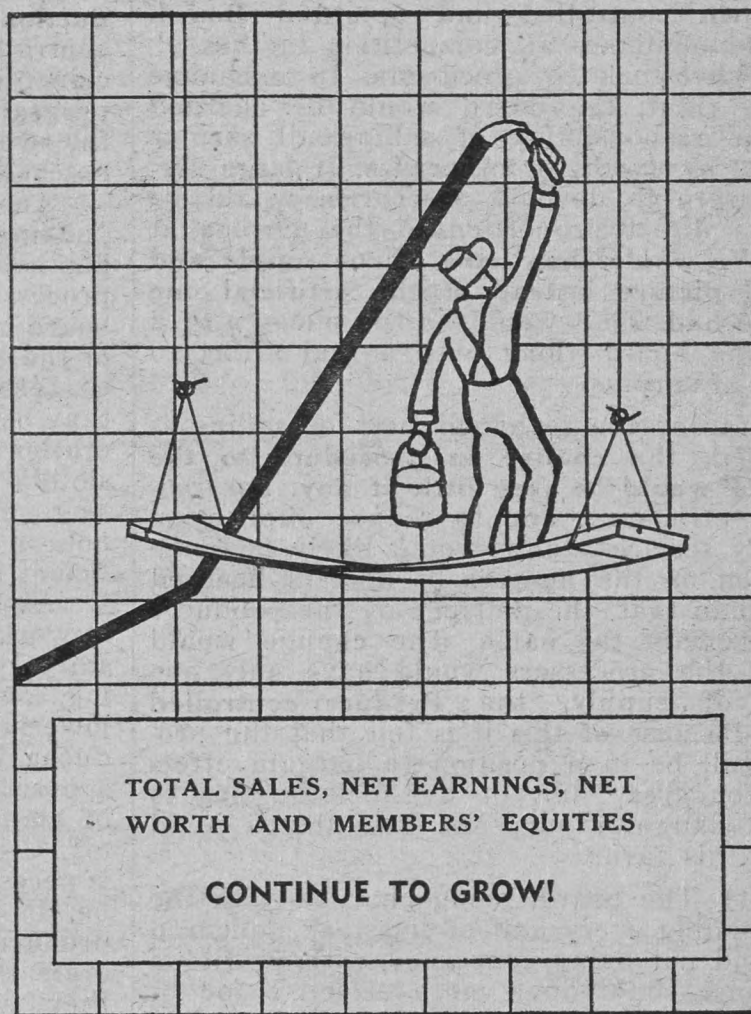
1. Since January 31, 1953, long term liabilities have been reduced by over \$300,000.

2. Through membership in other co-operatives, such as Interprovincial Co-operatives Ltd., National Co-operatives Inc. (U.S.A.); Federated Co-operatives Ltd.; and Consumers Co-operative Association, Kansas City (manufacturers of co-op oils and greases), investments in other co-operatives by the A.C.W.A. through patronage earnings have increased since January 31, 1953 by \$277,000.

3. A.C.W.A. fixed assets, consisting mainly of modern warehouses in Edmonton and Calgary and a feed plant in Edmonton, have been depreciated by setting aside, out of annual earnings, full depreciation charges, which since January 31, 1953 have amounted to over \$155,000.

4. The net equity of members in common shares, through adjusting deficits and surpluses, has increased since January 31, 1953 to June 30th, 1957, from \$64,867 to \$236,324. This means that for each dollar locals had invested in the A.C.W.A. in 1953 they now have \$3.60.

The executive considered reports by president Love and manager Mowbrey on the amalgamation resolution passed at the last A.C.W.A. annual meeting. This matter will be on the agenda for the next board meeting set for August 29th.



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FWUA Section

MRS. C. T. ARMSTRONG
F.W.U.A. President



Since writing the last report many things have happened and just where to begin is the question. Perhaps it is best that I try to give you some idea of Ceylon. Of course the conference was held in Colombo, and like all cities it is crowded with people and traffic, and being summer-time was hot and humid. The monsoon rain season brought torrential down-pours and then the sun would shine and it would be hot and sticky. Like any other city road-work was being done, and natives were working, bullock carts were bringing materials and very slowly a road was being built, and finally the steam-roller would make it smooth.

The arrangements for the conference were well laid and it went along very good. The delegates were happy to meet in Asia for the first time and it was a real event because it was the initial efforts of a world organization of women to meet together in these parts. The postponement did make a difference, but it was overcome and everyone made the best of it. The opening ceremonies were very dignified and full of color. The addresses were very informative, and the people assembled were conscious of a very great feeling of friendliness and a warm welcome. The days were filled with routine business and all were learning, each in their own way. Of course, a full report will be given on this later. I am anxious to tell you of the countryside of Ceylon for it was here that we learned the things we wanted to know about the agricultural side of the island. We saw the fruit areas, coconuts, rubber, and tea plantations, and this made a better impression on us than the crowded city. Tea is the main industry and the chief export. Many people are employed, and after visiting a plantation and tea fac-

tory, will enjoy a cup of tea all the more for it was a very nice experience and was able to learn a lot about this great industry. We visited the Peridenya University where the conference was first scheduled to meet. We saw young men and women there who were taking summer courses, and it was a delight to see this lovely education centre in such nice surroundings.

Another visit took us to Lanka Maheli Samiti Centre where the ladies served us lunch and we were able to see the handicraft made by the girls and women. This centre is doing a great work and is a credit to Ceylon and A.C.W.W. In several parts of the island there are centres and the members go into the villages and acquaint the women with the work and in this way a new field is opened to assist the natives.

Schools and hospitals are being expanded and new ones are being built in the settled areas. Just as in our country with progress the facilities are needed, and the people work towards this objective.

We learned much about the old culture of Ceylon, through their music, dancing and singing. These interludes were a delight and made us realize how very much they had done to perpetuate these fine things and what we, as a younger country, could do for ourselves in this line. It also made one feel happy that there had been others who had worked with the native people through these years to help them develop their cultures and assist in every way possible.

So much has been accomplished in combating disease, and much credit is due to pioneers in this field and later to World Health Organization. Technicians for agriculture are working

through United Nations and here again we see progress being made. One of our own men is working in this field, and a woman I know is the founder of the school for nurses aides in Colombo. We saw the development made under the Colombo plan and, as a Canadian citizen, I was glad to see where the money was being spent and the good it would do.

To follow this theme through we visited the International Headquarters of Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome. The United Nations in Geneva, also International Red Cross. Through these means the delegates are able to see for themselves just what it means to belong or work with these organizations. Later I will give a more detailed description of these visits. I have already prepared a report for the FWUA directors on business of A.C.W.W. and I will explain it to them at our board meeting, to be held on my return home.

F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights . . .

Plans were discussed by South Berry Creek FWUA #1107 (Cessford) for taking part in the local sport's day. Bulletin on education was read and discussed, also the matter of coming local events.

* * *

A well attended and interesting meeting was held by Anthony Hill FWUA #909 (Ponoka). Mr. Platt's letter to all locals and the bulletin on legislation were felt to be very timely. \$53.05 net profit was realized from catering to the FUA convention banquet. A full report on the convention was given by the delegates.

* * *

Imperial FWUA #621 (Vegreville) held a joint meeting with the FUA. A lengthy discussion was held on Mr. Platt's letter re: marketing of grain, poultry and poultry products. The FUA delegate gave a very interesting report on the district convention.

* * *

Berrywater FWUA #1202 (Vulcan) are collecting coupons with which to obtain spoons for the community centre. Some members donated tea towels and plates, and some cups have been purchased. It was decided to present each bride or bridegroom who grew up in the district with a FWUA cook book. They hope to be able to get the film on Australia for showing late in July or early August. A very bad wind and hail storm ravaged the district on the day of their June meeting.

Park Grove FWUA #609 (Vegreville) report net returns of \$90.10 on a tea and bazaar. A report was heard on the district convention. Plans were made for sending a member to farm women's week. It is planned to serve lunch to the men working on the community centre.

* * *

It has been planned by Three Hills FWUA #1018 to ask Mrs. Barker to speak at the August meeting of the local. The delegate to farm young people's week gave his report to the meeting. Due to bad weather and roads "Farmers' Day" picnic had to be cancelled.

* * *

Many interesting facts were learned from district home economists and agriculturists, at roll call of Heath FWUA #703 (Wainwright). A very good report on F.Y.P.W. was given by the delegate to same and Mrs. Mansfield reported on the district convention held in Wainwright.

* * *

Westlock FWUA #308 report a good meeting and many interesting topics for discussion. Mrs. Taylor's letter was welcome and made clear the meaning of her bulletin.

* * *

The members of Conrich FWUA #1007 plan to send parcels of clothing to Ponoka Mental Hospital — this to be a Christmas project. Woollens have been collected and sent to be made into blankets for the needy — two to be raffled at a later date. A community picnic (FWUA, FUA and Juniors) is being planned.

* * *

A picnic is being planned by Jefferson FWUA #1401 (Owendale) at the Experimental Farm in Lethbridge, in August, where a field day is sponsored jointly by the FUA and the Experimental Farm. A knitting machine was demonstrated at the last meeting.

* * *

A very full report on the district convention was given to the Gwynne FWUA #918. The delegate reviewed all the resolutions that were lost or carried. A thank you card was received from Mable Rasmuson for purse of money presented to her on her wedding.

* * *

Craigmyle FWUA #1102 have been busy fixing up their hall (cupboards, curtains and blinds — all new. have been added. It must look really nice now.) A letter of thanks from the locally sponsored young lady who attended F.Y.P.W. was read to the meeting. A tea and bake sale to be held in August to raise funds. The travelling basket (another fund raiser) still holds interest for the ladies. This local reports cook books selling well — six orders by persons in Ontario — no salesmanship, just on their merits.

Stony Plain FWUA #501 plan on having a speaker from Alberta Safety Council for a meeting and films from the dept. of extension. A number of locals are being invited to attend this meeting at Holborn School. Car insurance was discussed, also the bulletin on education — particularly regarding promotions in Grades X and XI.

* * *

Fort Saskatchewan FWUA #604 report a successful raffle, \$17.00 being realized on a crocheted centrepiece. It is planned that two women will bring lunch to each meeting, the hostess only supplying the place of meeting. Two members are to prepare an outline for scrapbook on Australia, for the next meeting.

* * *

It is planned by Northern Lights FWUA #205 (Bluesky) to pay $\frac{1}{4}$ of the purchase price of a P.A. system for use at social functions in the hall. The members planned to help the Golden Meadow FUA in the booth Farmers Day.

* * *

The members of Gwynne FWUA #918 and FUA #966 are making a money gift as a wedding present to Mable Rasmuson, district 9 alternate women's director. This FWUA local is changing alternate meeting evenings to Friday instead of Saturdays.

* * *

Fairview FWUA #201 planned to fix up the cemetery and the Rotary Club offered to assist in a beautification plan for it. F.W. members planned to provide sandwiches and coffee. They hope to have Mrs. Van Houten visit in July and tell them of her country.

* * *

Sale of lunch at the calf club sale brought in \$37.00 for Park Grove FWUA #609 (Vegreville). A report was given by Miss Lowe on the F.Y.P.W. Mrs. Fuller reported on the land surface of Australia and Mrs. Lowe on health in Australia. A donation is to be given toward expenses for Mrs. Juk's son who is going to Great Britain with the Boy Scouts.

* * *

A good meeting was held by the Chinook FWUA #1213 (Pincher Creek) in August. Lively discussion took place on the type of float to make for the agricultural fair; and a fine lot of used clothing and food was collected and sent to the Women's Mental Home at Claresholm.

Sydenham-Gerald FWUA #710 (Wainwright) report a most interesting summary, with pictures and articles re happenings at F.Y.P.W., by Rita Marchand who attended in Edmonton. Brief reports were also given on the conference and the district 7 convention.

* * *

Plans were discussed by Pollockville FWUA #1106 for a fall bazaar. It is hoped that the new district home economist will be able to attend the next meeting of this local. The members report success in the handling of the booth and lunch at the annual picnic and dance.

* * *

A very enlightening report of the district convention at Chipman was given at the June meeting of Bon Accord FWUA #612. A nice donation to the Canadian Mental Health Association was decided on.

* * *

The members of Drumheller East FWUA #1111 worked on a quilt for the Red Cross while the president read newflashes and the bulletin and other business of the meeting was carried on. Plans for a school picnic were made and the decision was also made to make several crib quilts during the summer for the Red Cross.

* * *

Durness FWUA #712 (Lloydminster) heard a report on the district convention. They are sponsoring a "small appliances demonstration", also films on electricity. Neighboring locals are being invited to attend.

* * *

The secretary of Craigmyle FWUA #1102 reports a very active local. A tea and bake sale were planned for August—to raise funds to send a delegate to the annual convention in Edmonton. A fence has been put up—by two members' husbands—fronting the lawn owned by the local.

* * *

It is hoped by Viking South FWUA #807 that a number of their members will be able to spend at least a day at Farm Women's Rest Week. A gift for a new baby in the local has been provided. The bulletin on provincial and federal matters was found very informative.

* * *

Hussar FWUA #1304 plan to have a flower show, with bazaar and a strawberry tea, in August.

Park Grove FWUA #609 (Vegreville) exhibited some articles at the fair in Vegreville and realized \$15.25 on them. One member read a paper on education in Australia, and another one on forestry and fisheries of Australia. Plans for handicraft for the annual convention were made.

F.U.A. Junior News

The Conrich Junior F.U.A. sponsored a tractor rodeo on July 1st. A very interested crowd attended the event which was divided into two sections. There was a junior section for boys from 16 to 20 years of age and an open event. Each contestant was required to describe the precautions which should be taken before starting a tractor. Then, the contestant had to drive a tractor, attached to a two-wheeled trailer, through an obstacle course. In the final part of the competition, the contestant had to

line-up a belt between the belt pulleys on two tractors.

Cups were presented to the winner in each section. The junior winner was Bob Wenstrom and the runner-up was Graham Ellis. The senior winner was Don Barker and the runner-up was Walter Pollock. The junior winner won the right to compete in the provincial tractor rodeo competition held at Edmonton during the time of the Edmonton Exhibition.

There was also a sports program and lunch was served by the Conrich Juniors.

One More Achievement

Another achievement by farm organizations was brought about by the combined efforts of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Interprovincial Farm Union Council. The Farmers' Union of Alberta, other farm unions and the poultry associations took their full part in putting before government the plight of the poultry meat industry.

On July 17 the government decided to place price supports and import controls on turkey and fowl, effective immediately. This will be welcomed by poultry producers, who have been faced with a very critical situation that the present action will go far to correct.

The text of the announcement by the government is as follows:

"Price support and import control on turkeys and fowl go into effect today. Minister of Agriculture, Hon. D. S. Harkness, announced that the government had acted to protect the poultry industry against falling prices in the face of abundant local supplies and heavy imports.

"Turkey prices will be supported at 25 cents per pound live weight delivered Toronto and Montreal for birds of 20 pounds and under with appropriate differentials where necessary for other weights and other market centres.

"The support price on fowl is 23 cents per pound live weight for birds of five pounds and over delivered Toronto with appropriate differentials for other weights and markets. This is in line with the price previously announced to be effective August 1 by Order in Council of April 15, 1957. The date has been advanced, however, and the support price becomes effective today.

"Mr. Harkness announced further that import control would be imposed on both turkeys and fowl effective today.

"The Minister indicated that the chief reasons for the adoption of this policy are first, heavily increased production of turkeys in the United States with the resultant increase of imports from that country to Canada, and, sec-

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**Government of
Alberta
Department of
Agriculture**

HON. L. C. HALMRAST
Minister

R. M. PUTNAM
Deputy Minister

only, that Canadian production, together with imports already made this year and abnormally heavy storage stocks now held in Canada, will fully meet the Canadian demand.

"Commenting on the decision Mr. Harkness emphasized that he hoped the action taken by the government would relieve the pressure on the Canadian turkey and fowl market and enable producers to obtain prices for their product which will obviate the serious losses which otherwise appear inevitable."

The support price is announced on live weight basis. Since the dressing percentage is about 25-28%, the price support on dressed turkeys is about 32 plus cents per lb. The principle of the Agricultural Prices Support Act is to endeavor to insure adequate and stable returns for agriculture, and to endeavor to ensure a fair relationship between the returns for agriculture and those from other occupations.

There are two ways in which the board may be authorized by the government to support the prices of farm products: (a) outright purchase, or (b) underwriting the market through guarantees.

From the press release it would appear that prices skidded down on account of heavy imports. Therefore it is assumed that restrictions on dumping will be invoked.

To date this year, inspected imports of dressed poultry is 9 million pounds as compared to 6 million pounds in 1956 for the same period. This year importation of turkeys is over five million pounds as compared to 1 7/10 million pounds last year for the same period. Thus there was a heavy increase in dumping of turkey meat. Also our exports of inspected dressed poultry is slightly down.

* * *

Ontario leads in production of poultry meat; Quebec follows; then comes B.C. Alberta production increased from 3 millions to 4 million pounds to date this year.

The storage of all dressed poultry as of July 1 increased from 11 million pounds to 21 million pounds.

The Poultry Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture advised us that last year's Canadian annual consumption of poultry meats was 508 million lbs. Therefore weekly consumption is about 10 million pounds of poultry meats. Hence, 21 million pounds in storage is about 2 weeks supply for Canadian needs.

The question we ask is this: Just because we have two weeks supply on hand why should the producers be penalized by the price setters? To us this does not make sense or economic justice. We need marketing boards for bargaining power.

—W.A.M.

District Conventions

DISTRICT No. 3 CONVENTION

The annual district convention was held in the Boyle Community Hall, Wednesday, July 3rd, 1957. The attendance, owing to the very welcome rain, was smaller than was anticipated. More delegates were registered from the south part of the district than from the north. Rev-Skaluba of Athabasca gave the invocation and councillor Andruski of Boyle gave the address of welcome on behalf of the mayor and the council.

The district director, Mr. C. Anderson, reported a slight increase in membership in general and a very satisfactory increase in the Athabasca and Clyde locals. Several locals have dropped out completely. He expressed hope for the collection of union dues through municipalities, gave an outline of the brief presented at Ottawa by delegates from each F.U.A. district.

Mrs. H. Beach, the F.W.U.A. director, spoke of the great leadership training offered at the "Farm Young People's Week" held each year at the University of Alberta.

Mr. T. Foster, alternate F.U.A. director, gave a short report on the Interprovincial Conference held at Saskatoon. The five sub-directors who were present reported on the activities in their respective sub-districts. They all agreed that more co-operation from the members in attendance of meetings and conventions was urgently needed in order to promote the F.U.A. program and increase the interest in farmers' problems in general.

Mr. J. Duseault, reeve of the M. D. of Westlock, who represented District No. 3 at Ottawa for two weeks during the past session of the House of Parliament, gave a very well received report of his experiences. His duties in gathering information for the F.U.A. brought him in contact with numerous M.P.'s and he felt that the F.U.A. president, Mr. A. Platt has made a very good impression in the East. Mr. Duseault stressed the need for better understanding between eastern and western farmers.

Mrs. Douglass, vice-president of F.W.U.A. brought greetings from the F.W.U.A. President Mrs. Armstrong, who is attending the A.C.W.W. Conference in Ceylon. Mrs. Douglass complimented Mrs. Armstrong and Mr. Platt for their efforts in promoting more unity between the different farm groups. She dealt

with the national health plan, education, library grants, farm women's week at Vermilion etc. She also expressed the opinion that the F.W.U.A. should have more interest in the I.F.U.C. and the F.U.A. Junior section.

The results of the elections were: F.U.A. director—C. Anderson; F.W.U.A. director—Mrs. H. Beach; F.U.A. alternate director—T. Foster; F.W.U.A. alternate director—Mrs. R. N. Russell and Junior director—R. Hutchison.

The delegates decided to hold the next annual district convention at Jarvie.

Mr. A. Platt, president of the F.U.A. in a comprehensive report dealt with topics of much importance to farmers such as: The delegation to Ottawa, long term loans to young farmers, rural telephones, the grain situation, price support, car insurance and many others. He maintained that government action alone would not bring parity for the farmers but that efficient production and marketing of farm products must be carried out by the farmers themselves.

Twenty resolutions were presented, all of a sensible nature and were passed by the convention with the exception of one, which was withdrawn, as the situation outlined was already remedied. The resolutions dealt with P.F.A.A. on an individual basis, floor price on hogs across Canada, veterinary college in the west, compulsory rail-grading of beef, poultry eviscerating, egg marketing board, organizational matters, licensing of farmers and control of production etc.

The ladies from Boyle served a delicious dinner and lunch and were given a hearty vote of thanks by the delegates.

F.U.A. DISTRICT 4 CONVENTION

One hundred and thirteen delegates attended district 4 annual convention, held at St. Paul on July 5th. The meeting was opened by director Fritz Wuth who called Mayor Jules Van Brabant to give the official welcome on behalf of the town of St. Paul.

Elected to chair the convention were Mr. Alfred Macyk and Mr. Jacobson.

Mr. A. W. Platt, FUA president and Mrs. Olive Douglass, FWUA vice-president were guest speakers.

Officials elected by the delegates were: Fritz Wuth, FUA director; Karl Nordstrom, alternate director; Mrs. Lucia L. Ash, FWUA director; Mrs. A. Drapaka, FWUA alternate director; and Miss Sylvia Billey, Junior director.

A number of resolutions were discussed and passed. Among them were those dealing with allocation of box cars, floor price for turkeys, distribution of fuel tax revenue, use of purple gas, retail grades of meat, crop insurance, etc.

During intermission the local co-op store

donated pop, cookies and chocolates to the delegates which was greatly appreciated by all.

In the evening a dance in the Legion Hall concluded the day's events. The next convention will be held at Smoky Lake.

F.U.A. DISTRICT 9 CONVENTION

District 9 convention was held at Wetaskiwin on June 27th with registration at 9 a.m. and the convention opening at 10 a.m. There were 38 locals represented with 126 delegates and 50 visitors. Dr. Andrews, mayor of Wetaskiwin welcomed the delegates.

Among the resolutions dealt with were those dealing with: Support price for hogs, horned cattle penalty, FUA dues, compulsory car insurance, hail suppression, property tax, term of office for FWUA president, etc.

Officers elected were: director—D. G. Whitney; alternate director—Fred Eikerman; FWUA director—Mrs. F. A. Sissons; alternate FWUA director—Mrs. Art Glaser. Sub-directors are Paul Krossa, Glen Dean, C. E. Jones, Charles King, Pete Wadman, and C. Plank.

The noon lunch was served by the Central Community FWUA and the evening banquet by Anthony Hill FWUA.

F.U.A. DISTRICT 6 CONVENTION

The ninth annual convention of District 6 was held at Chipman on Tuesday, June 25th commencing at 10:45 a.m. with a brief address of welcome from the mayor of Chipman.

After the election of the various committees, annual reports were submitted by the FUA, FWUA and Junior directors, as well as the board report, and also a report by the F.Y.P.W. delegate.

Interesting addresses were given by Mr. A. W. Platt, FUA president, Mrs. Olive Douglass, FWUA vice-president and Dean C. Lien, Jr. president, as well as brief address by Mr. Ed Ness, representative of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

A number of important resolutions were presented and interesting discussion took place and the majority of which were passed and will be presented to the annual convention.

The credential committee reported the following attendance:

Forty-nine delegates representing 21 FUA locals; 21 delegates representing 8 FWUA locals; three delegates representing 1 Jr. FUA local; nine officials; three guests and a good number of visitors.

The members of the district board for the coming year are:

FUA director, S. A. Sanford; alternate direc-

tor, C. Stimpfle; FWUA director, Mrs. P. Dowhaniuk; alternate FWUA director, Mrs. L. Carleton; Junior director, Tom Nisbet. Sub-directors: G. V. Newell, Linus Meyer, Russell Goshko, Ed Sanford, John Lupul.

A very delicious dinner and supper was served by the Catholic Women's League of Chipman which was enjoyed by all present.

DISTRICT 5 CONVENTION

F.U.A. District 5 convention was held at Seba Beach on June 26th with 93 delegates representing 25 locals and about 50 visitors in attendance. The convention was opened by Mr. C. Seeley, district director. Chairmen for the day were C. Seeley and G. Jouan, and secretaries were Mrs. L. Gibeau and Mrs. A. Barnes.

Committees chosen were: Registration — Mrs. Shadeck, Mrs. Richter and Miss Richter; press — Mrs. Gibeau and Mrs. Barnes; resolutions — D. Ball, J. Fuhr, B. Smith, C. Irwon, R. Getson, O. Hittinger; and elections — T. Silk, P. Litzenberger and D. Case.

Mr. Seeley gave a report on his activities as director during the past year. He had attended many conventions and meetings and was a member of the FUA delegation to Ottawa.

Mrs. Laura Gibeau, reviewed her activities as FWUA director.

At noon delegates and friends adjourned to the Seba Beach camp ground for a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon Mrs. Olive Douglass, FWUA 1st vice-president spoke, representing their president, Mrs. Armstrong who is attending the A.C.W.W. conference in Ceylon. She stressed the importance of forming junior locals. The Junior president, Mr. Dean C. Lien gave a very interesting talk on the activities of members

attending Farm Young People's Week at the University.

FUA president Mr. Platt, outlined what the FUA had gained by its presentation of briefs to both provincial and federal governments. He spoke at some length on the briefs now being prepared for presentation at Ottawa in August.

Officials elected were: FUA director — Oscar Hittinger; FUA alternate director — Jack Fuhr; FWUA director — Mrs. Laura Gibeau; and FWUA alternate director — Mrs. A. Barnes.

Ten resolutions were discussed and passed on to the main main convention next December.

PROGRESS

It was reported by the South Australian director of agriculture that progress is being made in farming. Recent scientific discoveries in agriculture opened up a new vast potential for future increases in food products. New plant varieties have played an enormous part in expanding rural production, knowledge on soils and fertilizers has solved many problems, and control measures for animal and plant diseases and insect and weed pests have led to remarkable progress in Australia's primary industries. Research was opening the door to developments of unexpected magnitude, and as a result farmers were learning to live and farm in South Australia's unique environment.

This year, the speaker stated that Australia's total rural production was expected to be \$2,450,000,000. Of this, rural exports would reach \$1,581 million. This meant that every man permanently engaged in agriculture will contribute \$4,240 to Australia's overseas credit. This effort could not have been achieved without the aid of modern labor saving machinery, and advancement in industry.

ARROWWOOD FLOAT

Arrowwood FWUA won second prize for their float in the Arrowwood Sport's Day Parade. The theme of the float was "The Soil is Our Heritage, Protect It."



WHY FOOD COSTS MORE

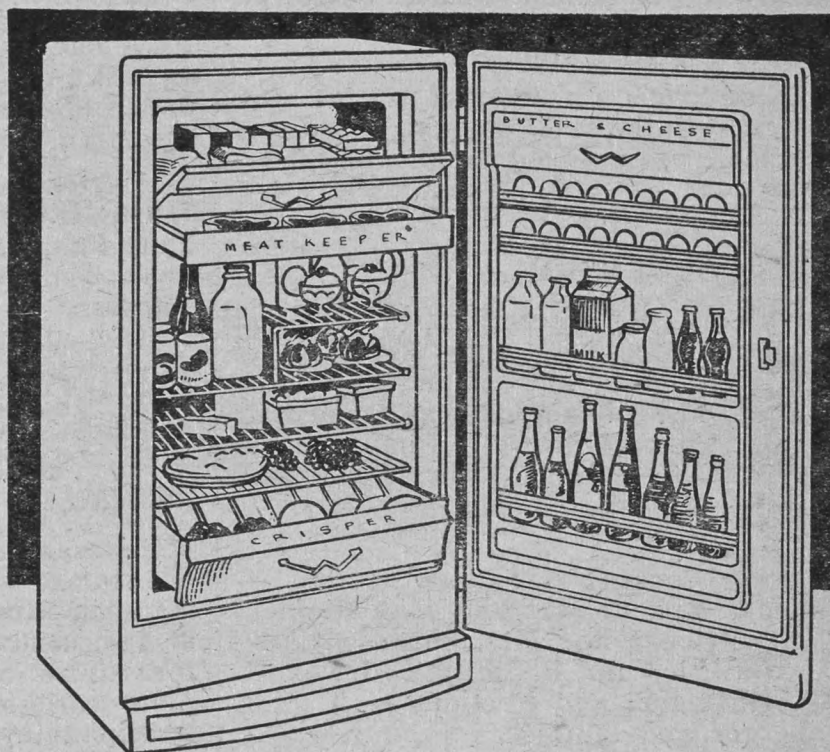
Food costs to consumers has been rising while the prices received by farmers have been dropping or stationary. What is the cause?

It has been suggested that a Royal Commission to investigate the reason for this paradoxical situation should be appointed by the Canadian government. Canada is strong for Royal Commissions.

The United States congress has had a committee at work prying into the the problem, so it may not be necessary to conduct a Canadian investigation. In the last ten years the cost of feeding the average United States' family of four has gone up 35%, while prices received by the farmer for his food products has gone down 13%. That is a spread of 48%. The increase in cost of food for the family of four was from \$1,264 to \$1,708 over the past ten years, an increase of \$444 a year.

The causes of the increase — better food, more processing, fancy packaging, higher cost of transportation and handling. Food is bought in smaller amounts, much of it is in a prepared state, marketing is made more convenient and products are put up in fancy wrappers. All this is now costing United States' food consumers an estimated \$6 billion more than the 1940 food bill.

Railway hauling charges have gone up 89% over 1945 rates in the U.S. (in



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C147A Co-op Combination Freezer-Refrigerator. Freezer 5.04 cu. ft. and 9.25 cu. ft. Refrigerator with separate doors.

C137A Co-op Custom Freezer Refrigerator Combination. 65½" high, 30¾" wide, 28" deep. 10.10 cu. feet.

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Canada freight rate increases have been 120%) and 8c on every dollar goes to pay for transportation, as compared to 6c in 1945.

Earnings of employees in the food marketing business have increased by 43% from the 1947-49 average up until 1955. In the same period labor costs per unit of food rose but 26%. That means that more efficiency was cancelled out by rises in wages.

The congressional committee found that competition was keen among food dealers, particularly among the super markets. The profits in the big markets ran from 3% to 3½%. The constant aim is for big turnover.

People have more money than they did a decade or so ago and are demanding out-of-season and more exotic foods.

The situation in Canada is similar to that in the United States except that food here must be moved greater distances, the population is smaller and volume of business is less.

There is the information. What can be done about it?

—Farm & Ranch Review, July 1957

The St. Lawrence Seaway

I had an opportunity to see something of this great new Canadian development — The St. Lawrence Seaway, in recent weeks. The magnitude of the work under way staggers the imagination and it is difficult to get any sort of an over-all picture of the whole scheme. It is even more difficult to attempt to assess the impact of this project on the future economic development of Canada. That this impact will be very great seems obvious. The Seaway valley will likely become a vast industrial empire, perhaps comparable to the Rhine Valley in Germany.

In reading the discussion that took place when the matter of engaging in this project was placed before parliament one comes to the conclusion that the primary purpose the government had in mind was not necessarily to encourage industry but, rather, to enable producers of primary products to compete to better advantage in world markets. High cost transportation has always placed the Canadian grain grower, pulp and paper manufacturer and ore producer at a serious disadvantage on world markets. It was hoped that the building of the seaway would help to alleviate this disadvantage. Whether or not this goal will be realized for all these people depends on the toll policy that the Canadian government adopts.

Traditionally, in Canada, and in the United States too for that matter, all works of this nature have been toll-free. They have been regarded as of value to all citizens and paid for

from the national treasury. This would seem to be a method that has been well justified over the years. Certainly the building of the Welland Canal has not only benefitted most Canadians directly, but its effect on stimulating industry has no doubt resulted in increased taxes that have paid for the canal many times.

When the present seaway was authorized the Canadian government said that the 'Seaway authority **may** collect suitable tolls'. The United States government said 'their authority **must** collect sufficient tolls to pay for the seaway in fifty years'. Obviously, the United States cannot collect tolls if Canada does not do so. Hence the United States authorities are putting great pressure on Canada to establish a toll scheme.

Rightly, or wrongly, many sections of the United States regard the Seaway as detrimental to their business interests and are hoping for a high toll scheme that will be unattractive to shipping.

At first sight it seems only reasonable and fair that those who use the Seaway should pay for it. Actually it is a very complex and difficult problem. It is estimated that, to pay for the cost of the Seaway and operating expenses, it would require about \$28,000,000 a year in tolls. To raise this amount of money would probably require a toll of a dollar a ton on grain, 50 cents a ton on ore, and very high tolls running up to perhaps six to ten dollars on package goods, plus tolls on coal, petroleum products and so on. All this is assuming that the Seaway is used to capacity. However, that is not likely to happen. The ore people say that if the 50 cent toll is levied they will re-route at least a part of their shipments to U.S. Atlantic ports. The petroleum people say that any substantial tolls on petroleum products will result in them building additional pipe-lines and avoiding the use of the Seaway as much as possible. Most other shippers take the same attitude. The only people who can't re-route, are the grain producers. It seems inevitable that under a toll system the grain producer is going to pay for most of the Seaway. If this proves to be so then he will receive little or no benefit from its construction.

It is estimated that the Seaway will result in a saving of about six cents a bushel (authorities differ on the exact amount). A toll of one dollar a ton will cut that in half. Then, if grain must make up for the difference because other products are re-routed, it is easy to see all benefits disappearing completely.

That was not the original intention in building the seaway. It would seem that grain growers might well put their case before the government at the earliest possible date. A strong case could be made and presented that the imposition of tolls is contrary to Canadian tradition; that their implementation would defeat

the original purpose of the seaway; and that the hard-pressed grain grower would pay more than his fair share.

Farm Cash Income from the Sale Of Farm Products

January-March, 1957

During the first quarter of 1957 Canadian farmers received an estimated 598.5 million dollars from the sale of farm products and from participation payments on previous years' grain crops. This estimate exceeds the previous all-time high for this period of 555.7 million dollars established in 1952, and is nearly 13% above the 530.3 million dollars realized in 1956. Compared with the corresponding period of a year ago, cash income for the first three months of 1957 was higher for all provinces except Nova Scotia and Quebec; the increases ranged all the way from 6% in New Brunswick to approximately 27% in Saskatchewan. The more important contributions to the gain in the total cash income for Canada in 1957 over 1956 were larger wheat participation payments and increased returns from the sale of wheat, flaxseed, tobacco and hogs. Supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to farmers in western Canada amounted to 1.5 million dollars for the first three months of 1957 as against 2.9 million dollars for the same period of 1956.

Field Crops —

A substantial increase in wheat marketings more than offset lower average prices to give a return from this source of 80.5 million dollars during the first quarter of 1957 as against 68.9 million dollars for the corresponding period a year earlier. At the same time, an interim payment of 10c per bushel on the 1955 wheat crop, made early in 1957, accounted for nearly all of the 37.4 million dollars worth of participation payments made up to the end of March; this contrasts with total participation payments of 22.3 million dollars distributed during the first quarter of 1956. Income from the sale of flaxseed at 12.8 million dollars for the first three months of this year is substantially above the level of 5.5 million dollars estimated for the corresponding period of 1956; a threefold increase in marketings far more than offset lower average prices. Increased returns from the sale of barley, from 10.7 million dollars in 1956 to 14.1 million in 1957, are due entirely to higher marketings. A large crop of tobacco is reflected in the substantial increase in the estimated returns from this source during the first quarter of 1957 as against the same period of 1956.

Livestock —

Preliminary estimates indicate that during the first three months of 1957, farmers received a total of 212.8 million dollars from the sale of livestock and poultry, 10.9 per cent above the 192 million dollars received during the first three months of the previous year. Although all livestock and poultry contributed to the gain in this income, most of it is attributable to increased returns from the sale of hogs. In the case of hogs higher average prices more than offset smaller marketings. Slight increases in both marketings and average prices were recorded for cattle; higher prices for calves were sufficient to compensate for reduced marketings.

Livestock Products —

Returns from the sale of dairy products during the January-March period of 1957 are estimated at 83.8 million dollars. Reduced sales of milk and cream for manufacturing purposes account in large part for the reduction from the corresponding 1956 estimate of 85.3 million dollars. Marketings of eggs were well above the first quarter level of a year ago, but prices were down to give a total income from this source of 32.3 million dollars, 10.7% below the estimate of 36.2 million dollars for 1956.

The estimates contained herein are based on reports of marketings and prices received by farmers for principal farm products and are subject to revision as more complete data become available. They include in the period in which paid, grain participation payments and those federal and provincial government payments which farmers receive as subsidies to prices. Payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act are not included with cash income from the sale of farm products but are included in total cash income in the year in which payments are made, being classified as "Supplementary Payments."

In Table I below, is summarized the preliminary estimates of cash income from the sale of farm products, by provinces, for the first quarters of 1956 and 1957, and revised estimates for 1955.

Table I — Farm Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products, January-March, 1955-57
(thousand dollars)

	1957 (preliminary)	1956 (preliminary)	1955 (revised)
Pr. Edward Island	5,691	5,335	6,197
Nova Scotia	8,844	9,268	8,673
New Brunswick	11,698	11,037	10,072
Quebec	85,746	85,954	77,208
Ontario	202,898	186,088	194,488
Manitoba	37,332	34,355	26,925
Saskatchewan	109,714	86,128	56,785
Alberta	112,986	90,403	78,762
British Columbia	23,617	21,757	20,068
Canada	598,526	530,325	479,778

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Sir:

The June issue of "The Organized Farmer", page 10, points to the unfairness of the present method of finding out if a majority of producers want an egg marketing plan.

We read that a vote taken recently in Britain showed that 96 per cent of British poultrymen wanted an egg marketing board. We read that Australia has had an egg marketing plan for 30 years. We recall that it was nearly 30 years ago when the price paid to the farmer for eggs in the Peace River country was 3 cents per dozen.

Even though practically no other occupation in Alberta has the prices of its products or services set by the law of supply and demand, there are still a great many backward thinking people in Alberta who wish to see the agriculturist left to the mercy of a law already abandoned by practically all others. The way they have gone about it is this: The organized farmers were planning to have voluntary registration of egg producers with 50 hens or more. They figured that those who took the trouble to register would take the trouble to vote. If a majority of those voting, voted in favor of a marketing board it would become legal to try out such a system of marketing eggs. It is now evident that the Alberta Government will make a compulsory registration of everybody that has a hen, whether he markets any eggs or not. Those many producers who have a few hens, but don't market any eggs, will not bother to vote. But we understand that it is the intention of the Alberta government to count all those who do not bother to vote, as voting against the plan. This is not democracy. It is the dictatorship of the indifferent. It is government by those who have no interest in governing.

Why should the indifferences of those who don't sell any eggs be used by the government of Alberta as a means to overthrow the will of those who do? I cannot think of any other instance in democracy where those who don't vote are all counted as opposing. The government doesn't get itself elected that way. Alberta towns borrow hundreds of thousands of dollars on a low minority vote of those who could vote.

It looks very bad for a government that pretends to be so fervent in its opposition to compulsion, to compel all the egg producers to register. If they do, the organized farmer only asks them to have either compulsory voting as well as compulsory registration, or else voluntary registration and voluntary voting. It is really wicked to block the efforts of the pioneers of progress toward orderly marketing, by using against them only the worst features of two different methods.

I. V. Macklin,
Grande Prairie, Alberta

To the Editor:

Thanks are due to Mr. Bevington for his letter in June issue on Export-Import Boards, if more of our farm leaders got down to fundamentals, instead of indulging in academic dissertations, the farm movement might begin to get somewhere.

Export-Import Boards can solve the farm surplus problem, all farm leaders should be able to explain how these boards would work. For the present, all talks on cash advances on farm stored grain, easy credit for farmers, etc., etc., should cease. The problem facing Agriculture, is to get rid of grain surpluses, if we don't do that we are sunk, even if you are, now, nicely getting by on cattle and \$50.00 hogs. Bad health in one branch of agriculture, is infections and will spread to all branches of farming.

In a new country, just holding our markets, is not enough, we must have expanding markets. Where a man requires raw land, he can't continue to keep it in its raw state, he begins to clean it or break it up. Every extra acre of land means increased production, for which an expanding market must be found, expanding market is emphasized.

There is a market for all grain, in India and the Asiatic countries and these people have goods to exchange for grain.

This writer suggests to Mr. Platt, that he together with the premiers of the Western Legislatures, if they are willing, put it up to Mr. Diefenbaker, to substantially expand markets for grain, or else. It can be done. This writer is not talking party politics. Expand our markets or get out.

Now Mr. Platt, it is up to you to talk turkey to Mr. Diefenbaker, take a lead in this matter.

W. Horner
Hespero

NOTES ON GRAIN SITUATION

In the following table some information is given as to producers marketings and commercial disappearance of the 1956-57 crop as compared with the 1955-56 crop. Because the crop year has just been closed some of these figures are subject to revision.

CROP	Producers Marketings Millions of Bushels		% of available grain marketed	Commercial disappearance Millions of Bushels			
	1955-56	1956-57		Domestic 1955-56	Domestic 1956-57	Export 1955-56	Export 1956-57
Wheat	353.0	350.1	58	68.1	68.1	310.1	261.2
Oats	71.6	65.1	37	51.8	47.8	4.4	17.6
Barley	114.5	117.3	73	39.3	43.4	64.4	77.0
Rye	12.5	3.9	44	1.7	1.3	12.9	5.4
Flax	15.7	28.5	100	3.2	3.5	11.6	21.6
Total	567.3	564.9	58	164.1	164.1	403.4	382.8

It will be noted that total producers marketings were very close to those of the previous crop year. There were slight decreases in wheat and oats and substantial decreases in rye. There were slight increases in barley and very marked increases in flax. The most significant figures in the table show a decrease in wheat exports of 50 million bushels.

The percentage of actual marketings relative to the estimated deliverable grain for the crop year 1956-57 are given below.

	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
	%	%	%
Wheat	80	53	66
Oats	46	26	53
Barley	84	69	74
Rye	67	42	42
Flax	100	99	103
All grains	70	52	67

These figures show that marketings in Manitoba and Alberta were relatively favorable as compared with Saskatchewan. The great bulk of wheat on hand is in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

At the end of the crop year the quota situation was as follows:

	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
5 bus. per specified acres	17 stations	431 stations	0 stations
6 bus. per specified acres	359 stations	666 stations	572 stations

BRITISH TRACTOR DISPLAY

A comprehensive display of British tractors is being shown at the Poznan Fair this month by a firm which have booked space double that which they occupied at the same fair last year.

This has been done to show new developments, including a tractor control unit which is generally recognized by experts as one of the most significant advances in tractor design over the last ten years.

We have no information as to whether or not producers were able to deliver their quotas. In many cases they probably were not able to deliver the total amount. In any case the figures show that Alberta did relatively better than the other provinces. This is in contrast to a year ago when Alberta was in a poorer relative position.

The grain storage situation as at July 31 was grim. There was no space in terminals at the Lakehead or in eastern elevators. Space in country elevators in Saskatchewan and Alberta was practically non-existent and very slight in Manitoba. There was space for about 4 million bushels at the west coast. This means that deliveries of the new crop will be limited to domestic use and export sales.

With large crops coming off in Europe the outlook for export sales is very bad. Unless some sort of governmental action is taken immediately the outlook for grain deliveries this fall is the worst on record. We have been familiar with this situation for a long time and are doing all we can to get governmental assistance for the grain grower.

The unit is a hydraulic device enabling the driver to transfer a selected portion of weight from the attached implement to the tractor's rear wheels and thereby overcome wheel-spin in wet or loose soil.

The firm's display consists mainly of diesel tractors with agricultural attachments and two diesel tracklayers. The firm will also give demonstrations featuring its 2-D tractor with semi-digger plow and the recently announced 40 h.p. tractor featuring the four-furrow plow.

Your Own Car Insurance

At the annual convention of the F.U.A. the board was instructed to appoint a committee to arrange for a Car Insurance Pool for F.U.A. members, to be administered by a car insurance company.

After negotiating with a number of companies we were fortunate in obtaining the services of the Co-op Fire and Casualty Co. This company is well established and is administering insurance programs in all parts of Canada.

THE PLAN

In order to obtain the best results we have agreed that it is necessary to insure at least 7500 vehicles at the regular low insurance rates quoted by the Co-op Fire and Casualty Company before establishing this pool (vehicles owned by F.U.A. members and already insured in Co-op Fire and Casualty will be automatically included in the F.U.A. Pool.

IT'S UP TO YOU

The rest is up to you — our immediate target is 7500 vehicles so that the pool can be set up before our annual convention. We are counting on every member insuring every vehicle with Co-op Fire and Casualty as present policies expire.

INSURANCE AT COST

Once this is in operation it will mean that F.U.A. members will obtain insurance at cost — only actual expenses of administration and claims being withdrawn from the pool — the balance being available for rate reductions in subsequent years.

HERE IS ALL YOU DO

Fill in and mail the coupon below — hand it to your F.U.A. secretary or mail to Co-op Fire and Casualty Co., 402 Northern Hardware Bldg., Edmonton, or 119 - 11th Ave. E., Calgary.

F.U.A. Car Insurance Pool

I am interested in insuring the following vehicles through the F.U.A. Car Insurance Pool and would ask to be reminded one month before my present policies expire by forwarding me rates and application forms.

Type of Vehicle	My present policy expires	Name
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	Address _____
3. _____	_____	(Please Print)

WE'RE IN THE SEED BUSINESS

Over the past 35 years Alberta Wheat Pool members have built themselves an efficient grain handling organization through which they have gained many benefits.

Seed producers of the province have now called upon the Pool to assume the responsibility of marketing their seed. Wheat Pool delegates have authorized the purchase of the properties of the Alberta Seed Growers' Co-operative and the setting up of a Wheat Pool Seed Division. They believe that with the whole-hearted support of the growers the Pool will handle forage seed with the same satisfactory results that it has had with grain.

It is the aim of the Pool's Seed Division to provide the best of service, fair treatment to all and return the highest possible prices to growers.

The seed Division will operate on a strictly co-operative basis. Patrons will receive the benefit of the savings made in the marketing of their seed.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PATRONIZE THE

Seed Division
Alberta Wheat Pool

SEE YOUR NEAREST POOL AGENT FOR ALL DETAILS